

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 9-18 are pending, Claim 9 having been amended by way of the present amendment and Claims 1-8 having been cancelled.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 9-18 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph; and Claims 9-18 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter in Claim 9.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

In addition, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Chin for the February 22 and March 1, 2005 telephone interviews at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Specifically, as a result of the February 22, 2005 telephone discussion, Applicants faxed Examiner Chin a proposed amendment specifying the relation of the core partition and the reactor, as suggested by the Examiner. After reviewing the proposed amendment, Examiner Chin again contacted Applicant's representative on March 1, 2005 to suggest further changes to Claim 9. In response, Applicants presented to the Examiner amendments and arguments substantially as contained in this response. Agreement was reached that such amendments and arguments would place this case in condition for allowance when filed in a formal amendment.

With regard to the claim rejection, Claim 9 has been amended, consistent with 35 USC §112, second paragraph. It is believed that Claim 9, as agreed to in the March 1st interview complies with 35 USC §112, second paragraph. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that mutually agreeable claim language may be identified.

In addition, as discussed in the March 1st interview, the feature of the core partition being "configured to enable a flicker of a flame of the core burner to be reduced," is

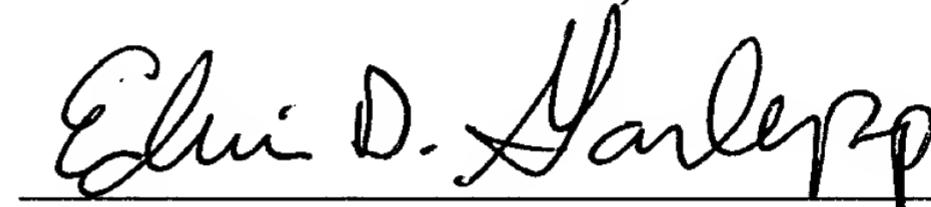
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supported by page 13, lines 2-4 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, the amendments contained herein do not raise an issue of new matter.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9-18, as amended, are definite. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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